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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. GOODLING].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 31, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable WILLIAM F. GOODLING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority and minority leader, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] for 5 minutes.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 1833, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1833 which would ban second- and third-term abortions in the case of severe threats to the life and health of the mother and cases of severe fetal anomaly.

Proponents of the bill attempt to exploit one of the greatest tragedies any family faces by using graphic pictures, sensationalized language, and distorted truths. Families facing a late-term

abortion are families that want to have a child. These couples have chosen to become parents and only face the decision of abortion due to unavoidable circumstances.

Unfortunately, medical testing is still not sophisticated enough to detect fetal anomalies until late in the pregnancies. Also, some illnesses such as diabetes or kidney failure can suddenly flare up and put the health and life of the mother at risk. The decision to abort at this stage in a pregnancy is agonizing and deeply personal.

This bill is not about choice. It is about necessity. As the mother of three grown children, I thank God every day that my children were born healthy and strong. However, not everyone is so lucky.

Yesterday my office received a call from Claudia Ades, a woman who lives in Santa Monica, CA. She had heard about the bill and called to ask me if there was anything we could do to defeat it. As Claudia said so passionately, "this procedure saved my life and the life of my family."

Three years ago, Claudia was pregnant and happier than she had ever been in her life. However, 6 months into her pregnancy she and her husband discovered that the child she was carrying suffered from a number of severe fetal anomalies, including acute brain damage, a very malformed heart. It was doubtful that the child would survive birth; and, if it survived, its short life would be filled with pain and suffering.

After speaking to a number of doctors, Claudia and her husband finally had to accept their view that there was no way to save this pregnancy. They chose to go to Dr. James McMannus because his procedure would allow Claudia to get pregnant in the future and would allow them to have a family. "This was a desperately wanted pregnancy," Claudia said yesterday, "but

my child was just not meant to be in this world."

Who here cannot sympathize with the pain that Claudia and her family faced? Those of us with healthy children can only imagine the horror that Claudia felt when she received the news about her child's condition. It is the news that all mothers pray every day they will never have to hear.

But in those tragic cases where families do hear this horrible news, who should get to decide? If, God forbid, this ever happened to me or somebody in my family, I would want the decision to be mine just as any of you would.

The one thing that I know for sure is that the decision should not be made by the Congress of the United States. At that horrible, tragic moment the Congress, the Government, just has no place in the home, in the hearts, in the decisionmaking of these agonizing families.

I beg my colleagues to think very carefully, to vote against H.R. 1833. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is not a pro-choice or an anti-choice issue. This tragedy can strike any family regardless of party affiliation.

Defeat this bill so that women in Claudia's situation can get the best medical care possible. Defeat this bill because it is the right thing to do.

WORKERS' RIGHTS IN CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in his desperate effort to hold on to power at any cost and by any means necessary, Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro has turned the Cuban economy into a slavlike system.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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